



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Zoom meeting – You must Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkf-utqz8rGtSmWPfDky2mqTirJhKNbXa>

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Keith Schnebly, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Phil Tedesco, Mara Vatz, Steve Moore, Tim Lecuivre

1. *Review and Approve October Minutes* - approved with font changes
2. *Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees* –
 - a. AHS. Nothing new to report
 - b. Lake Street project – No report given
 - c. Mugar (next meetings: 24 Nov, 10 Dec). Keith and Steve hope to attend
 - d. Mass Ave improvements (Keith added trees to Tree Inventory); Eliza noted the use of flexi-pave material that looks similar to asphalt but it is ADA compliant, flexible and permeable. Town is eager to see how this application works and where else it might be used in town
 - e. Lussiano (Keith added new trees to the Tree Inventory). Mara suggested that maybe the 3 large trees that were purchased for Thompson be instead planted at Lussiano while we wait to see if Arlington will receive a grant in spring 2021 for Thompson tree planting grant. **ACTION: Mara / Phil will reach out to Landscape designer to discuss potential locations; and Tim will check with Park/Rec to see if this switch is possible).**
 - f. Re-zoning discussions: there is an attempt to change single family zoning to 2 family zoning. ATC is concerned about impact on trees as well as the concern about additional parking potentially increasing impermeable surfaces (thereby reducing open space and tree planting opportunities).
3. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*
 - a. Report on general tree condition. DPW consumed by early storm damage work - some trees damaged, some have to be removed, others will be pruned.
 - b. Fall planting – In progress. Received 200 bare root trees on Nov 2; six ball/burlap trees planted at Mt Pleasant Cemetery. Trees should be planted by Thanksgiving.
 - c. Watering – tree crew is watering in the evening taking extra hours. No interns were hired; Eliza recommended that ATC be kept informed about this sort of job posting. Advertising for this sort of intern role could be done through Facebook and our Googlegroups to locate local individuals.
 - d. Tree hearing(s) - none
 - e. Tree Bylaw activity – no new activity
 - a. Outreach to Engineering dept regarding accommodating trees (Susan) – No update/will be discussed at December meeting
 - f. EAB budget 2021 and additional funding follow up – 3,000 trees treated (@ \$10.49/inch). 10,000 left to treat. Tim is proposing to request \$112,000 for the rest of trees in town Then, \$70k every other year to keep treating.
 - i. Trees Please Fund accounting. No discussion

4. Adopt-A-Tree Program
 - a. Finalize with a letter to participants; request comments/feedback; plan for spring follow up – **Action: Eliza will draft an ‘end of season’ letter for adopters. MEA, Eliza, Tim will meet with Adam in early December to discuss** how we end program for this year and plan for restarting in the spring, and how do we (automatically include residents that just got a tree to be adopters? Maybe we have an event in spring to demonstrate watering, meet Tree Warden and pick up “kit” (ribbon to attach to bag, bumper sticker, etc)
 - b. AHS community service. Have had 5-6 students adopt trees. We need to fine tune language on the AHS community service site to streamline this process/expectations/hours). **Action: Eliza will communicate with Tricia at AHS to discuss.**

5. Bylaw review subcommittee (Susan, Mary Ellen) – no discussion

6. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- a. Grant Writing
 - i. DCR urban forestry grant—Mara submitted a grant on Nov 1 proposing two small groves of trees on the SE side of Thompson School. The second part of the grant is a school tree management program (how to take care of school trees long-term). This is a pilot program. If this can work at Thompson, it might work for other Arlington schools.
 - ii. Mara also reported that she applied for an additional grant from Annie’s Mac n Cheese grant program. For this grant, Mara proposed a grove of fruit trees for the Thompson garden. She consulted with Ben Barkan of HomeHarvest (Arlington business) on this grant.
- b. Certificate draft by Steve to recognize builders who honor our tree bylaw and show commitment to preserve trees during new construction. This would be a great way to recognize (and even promote) builders – promote it, maybe take photos of the homes with creative tree planting **ACTION: ATC will review for next month.**
- c. ATC website - need to consider upgrade – who will take on? **ACTION: Keith will ask his colleagues, MEA will talk to AHS to gauge student involvement**
- d. No correspondence of note

7. *New Business*

- a. Planting public trees on private property – Tim said many other communities are offering this (e.g. Lexington, Northampton, etc)
- b. **New idea:** Introduce Tim our Tree Warden - fireside chat, an “Ask the Arborist” program, virtual format in January perhaps, moderator to ask questions of Tim
- c. **New idea:** Promote Tim by sharing ACMI videos that were recorded of Tim when he joined the town.
- d. **New idea:** Tree captains by tree zones (which are trash routes that correspond to what days trash is picked up).
- e. Purchase second watering truck? (Mara/Phil). No discussion
- f. Arlington Net Zero Open House website – Keith will send around the new educational website.
- g. Town governance and Tree Hearings. What happens when a non-Chapter 87 tree is going to be removed? Adam C suggested community involvement around removal of these public trees but this has led to some confusion because technically a hearing does not need to be held. ATC will follow up on what this should look like going forward.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm